

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The paragraph starting on page 19, line 18, has been amended in the following manner:

FIGURE 3 illustrates a servo writer 30 that includes a positioning system 31 having a platform 32 to which the components of the positioning system 31 are either directly or indirectly affixed, and a control unit 33 that is connected to the platform 32 and functioning to control servo writing functions of the servo writer 30. A first end of a positioning arm 34 is connected to the platform 3230 in a manner that allows the positioning arm 34 to rotate about a positioner axis 36. At a second end of the positioning arm 34, opposite the connection to platform 3032, a generically represented push-pin assembly 40 is connected to the positioning arm 34. The positioning system 31 of the servo writer 30 is designed and configured such that at least a portion of the push-pin assembly 40 fits through a push-pin hole 28 on the base plate 26 of the disk drive 10 (FIGURES 1-2). Additionally, the positioning system 31 is designed and configured such that rotation of the positioning arm 34 about the positioner axis 36 will result in movement of the corresponding push-pin assembly 40 which is unimpeded by the configuration of the push-pin hole 28 of the disk drive 10. That is, the configuration of the push-pin hole 28 at least generally approximates the path along which the push-pin assembly 40 moves during servo writing operations. Accordingly, the push-pin hole 28 can exhibit any appropriate shape/configuration that avoids significantly hindering/obstructing movement of the push-pin assembly 40 during servo writing operations.

The paragraph starting on page 36, line 20, has been amended in the following manner:

Another embodiment of a push-pin assembly demonstrating the desired vibrational damping characteristics is illustrated in FIGURE 10, and may be used in place of the push-pin assembly 40 of FIGURE 3. FIGURE 10 illustrates a push-pin assembly 540 having a central, longitudinal axis 542, and includes a contact pin 550 having a head 554 and a shaft 552, a body 560, and pair of longitudinally spaced vibration dampers 570A, 570B. Each vibration damper 570A, 570B includes an aperture 575 into which the contact pin shaft 552 at least extends. The contact pin 550 further includes a first protrusion 557 and a second protrusion 558 that both extend outwardly from the shaft 552 of the contact pin 550. The first protrusion 557 is designed to interface with a lower end surface 573A of the vibration damper 570A, thus retaining the longitudinal positioning of the contact pin 550 and reducing the potential for the shaft 552 of the contact pin 550 pulling out of the contact pin receptacle 562. Further, the first protrusion 557 of the contact pin 550 is longitudinally tapered from its upper extremity to its lower extremity, thus enabling the contact pin shaft 552 of the contact pin 550 to be lockingly inserted into the body 560 already containing the vibration damper 570A, namely by applying a force to the contact pin 550 to direct the shaft 552 of the contact pin 350 into the contact pin receptacle 562 of the body 560, and downwardly through the aperture 575 in the damper 570A. However, such a tapered configuration of the first protrusion 557 does not readily allow the contact pin 550 to thereafter be removed from the receptacle 562 without significantly more effort and/or replacing the vibration damper 570A which interfaces with the first protrusion 557. As such, the first protrusion 557 functions as an appropriate mechanical catch of sorts for retention of the contact pin 550 within the body 560. One way of characterizing the first protrusion 557 to provide this function is that it has an effective diameter which is greater than an effective diameter of the aperture 575 in the vibration damper 570A through which the contact pin shaft 352552 extends, thus

providing for both vibrational isolation and positional maintenance of the contact pin 550 with respect to the contact pin receptacle 562. Any configuration for the first protrusion 577557 may be utilized to allow it to provide its "mechanical catch" function. For instance, the first protrusion 577557 may have an annular configuration, may be defined by a plurality of radially spaced segments, or may be a single protrusion of less than annular extent.
